

REMARKSPending Claims

Claims 1-14 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 15-22 have been added. Accordingly, examination of claims 15-22 is requested.

35 U.S.C. §102

New claims 15-22 are patentable over the art of record and in particular Deo et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,721,781. The claims are directed to an embodiment of the invention set forth on page 29, lines 10 to page 31, line 6 and page 39, line 13 to page 42, line 6, for example. As stated in the specification, the digital signature obtained from the combination of information in the IC chip or electronic tag and the important information printed on the surface of the certificate is also printed on the surface of the certificate. In this way, counterfeiting can be prevented.

According to the invention, when the certificate is to be authenticated, the digital signature printed on the surface of the certificate and the stored information in the electronic tag attached to the certificate are processed to obtain values

corresponding to the important information printed on the certificate, such as the owner's name in the case of a passport, and a denomination or face value in the case of paper money. If the values are identical to the information printed on the certificate, the certificate is determined to be authentic. As a result, it is possible to significantly reduce the possibility of forgery of certificates that incorporate the claimed features.

Deo discloses a smart card 10 and a terminal 32. Smart card 10 sends its card-related certificate 40 to terminal 32 and the terminal sends its terminal-related certificate 42 to smart card 10 for authentication purposes. Further, in another authentication phase, a user is requested to enter a PIN 50. Although several levels of authentication are disclosed in Deo, the reference does not disclose or suggest the certificate or an apparatus for issuing a certificate of the present invention in which the digital signature is generated from first information stored in electronic tag and second information printed on the surface of the certificate. Further, Deo does not disclose or suggest that the information described in the certificate is confirmed based on the

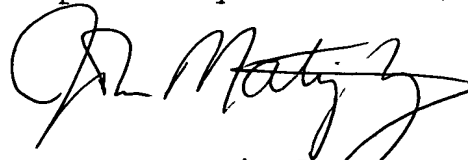
information stored in the electronic tag and the digital signature printed on the certificate. Accordingly, Deo does not disclose or suggest the claimed combination of the invention as set forth in claims 15-22.

Applicants have reviewed the remainder of the art with respect to the pending claims and have determined that none of the references anticipates or renders obvious the invention whether the references are considered individually or in combination. Accordingly, the claims should be found to be patentable over the art of record.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks,
reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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